[Translation]

Complaint against Distribution of Acknowledgements

818. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Postal Department has received complaints from the senders of registered AD letters that they are not getting acknowledgements of their letters for which they pay additional money; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government so as to ensure that the senders are provided with acknowledgements of their letters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes Sir. Complaints have been received from some senders of registered letters with acknowledgements about non-receipt of acknowledgement cards.

(b) Such complaints are enquired into promptly and wherever it is found that AD card has not been delivered, an attested copy of addressee's receipt is supplied free of charge. Instructions are issued from time to time to all concerned to ensure proper delivery of Registered letters/Acknowledgement Cards which are also monitored during transmission through post. The Department has improved upon the size and thickness of the AD Card to enable quick identification and their easy handling. Customer Care Centres have been set up in important cities to ensure prompt redressal of grievances including those relating to non-delivery of AD Cards.

Opening of Telephone Exchanges and Post Offices in Sikkim

819. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges, post-offices and sub-post-offices opened in Sikkim during the last three years;

(b) the places where telephone exchanges, post-offices and sub-post-offices are proposed to the opened in 1998-99 and the number of proposals under consideration of the Govt. for setting up post-offices and sub-post-offices; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) The number of telephone exchanges opened in Sikkim are as under :

Year	*No. of exchanges*
1995-96	2
1996-97	2
1997-98	6

The information in respect of post offices is at Annexure-I.

(b) The places where telephone exchanges are likely to be opened during 1998-99 are as under :

(i) Tashiding

(ii) Lachen

(iii) Lachung

(iv) Assamlingzey

(v) Barmik

(vi) Magalbari

The information in respect of Post offices is attached as Statement. The above exchanges are likely to be set up by March, 1999. The information in respect of Post offices is given in the attached statement.

Statement

(a) The number of Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices and Departmental Sub Post Offices opened in Sikkim during the last three years are as under :

1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
EDBO	DSO	EDBO	DSO	EDBO	DSO
–	–	–	–	2	1

(b) The opening of following Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices and Sub Post Offices in Sikkim for 1998-99 are contemplated subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms :

Departmental Sub Post Offices	Extra-Departmental, Branch Post Offices
(1) Ravangla	(1) Neya
	(2) Lingzey
	(3) Ahobasti
	(4) Shakhubasti

(c) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of existing norms, availability of resources and Plan target.

Privatisation of Doordarshan

820. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise/ commercialise any channel of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any code of conduct has been formulated in this regard;